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THERE IS MUCH TO BE LEARNED AT 4-H CAMPS

A radio talk by Madge J. Reese, Extension Service, delivered in the 4-H Club Radio program, July 1, 1933.

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The 4-H Club Camp is taking its place as a definite part of our extension service program. In 1932, the extension workers conducted 2,222 county, district, and State 4-H club camps in 46 States and in the Territory of Hawaii. No longer do people think of the camp program as purely a play program but agree that 4-H club camp experience is a valuable part of a club member's training. Last year 242,113 club members participated in the camp activities as a regular part of their 4-H club work.

In 4-H club camping we combine living in the open, recreation, informal instruction, cultural and social activities and the comradeship of farm boys and girls and their leaders, extension workers with experience and vision. Discipline in camp is largely a matter of organization and activity. Club members discover that commonly-shared duties like K. P. work, making beds to pass inspection, and other camp work is fun when done in a spirit of helpfulness and service. A good lesson to learn early in life is that joy and zest and hard work can go together and if our attitude toward the "hard work" is right "happiness" is more likely to be ours.

The organized and supervised camp activities, I say organized and supervised, but not overly so - have an excellent socializing influence upon the boys and girls. The camper must forget self and become one of the group and he finds himself a more popular camper if he shows the proper appreciation of the other fellow's viewpoint. Such virtues as loyalty, tolerance, and good sportsmanship are developed or wisely tested by work and play. Cooperation can far better be taught by team and group activities than by talking about it.

There are so many things the 4-H club members learn at camp, but in these short radio minutes, I can mention only a few. Because of the camp setting, woodcraft, basketry using native materials, Indian lore and the marvels of nature all around offer excellent opportunities for worth-while instruction. Supervised hikes with a guide who can identify the trees, the shrubbery and flowers, and the birds are popular.

Camp instructors find camp an ideal place to teach positive health, the relation of food, clothing and living habits to health. Such important personal matters as clean clothes and clean bodies, good posture and even good table manners can be discussed with less embarrassment than under more formal relationships. Also at camp, leaders learn much about the capabilities and aptitudes of boys and girls which is helpful to them in planning and conducting 4-H club work. Often men and women who have achieved prominence through valuable service to the world visit camp and inspire the camp group by their talks.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt recently said that we must teach boys and girls to manufacture their own good times; that good times are not necessarily associated with spending money, that simple pleasures often give children their happiest memories. I think that is true in camp as well as in the home. There are do-as-

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you please periods for rest or sports or for chatting with old and new friends. There is plenty of opportunity for expression of talents in the evening entertainment. Original pageants and dramatic presentations of surprising merit often materialize in the camps.

Campfire with story and song is a feature without which no camp is complete. The age-old art of story telling is best around the campfire when adventures of pioneers, folk lore, Indian legends and historical happenings pertaining to the particular section of the country are told. Such stories arouse the emotions and stimulate a sense of true value toward the locality in which the boys and girls live. A word about the singing at camp. It is important as it is a joyful means of keeping up a desirable camp morale.

When camp breaks, the 4-H club boys and girls return to their farm homes happier, I think. They have made new friendships, done new things, thought new thoughts, learned new arts and crafts, found new hobbies and absorbed a bigger and finer outlook for their own possibilities in life. Yes, it is all worth while.